(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken following steps in this regard:

(a) Short Term Measures

(i) Notes are regularly lifted from the currency chests in Jaipur.

(ii) Diversion orders have been issued from Jaipur to Bhopal, Mumbai and Nagpur to ease the pressure on Jaipur Office.

(iii) In order to dispose of soiled notes at RBI expeditiously, RBI has opened one New Note Examination Hall (Revised Procedure) which disposes of the soiled notes 150% of the Normal Procedure. RBI has also introduced 2 Modified Procedure Section to dispose of lower denominations notes at fast track which disposes of soiled notes 200% the Normal Procedure.

(b) Long Term Measures

RBI is introducing Currency Verification and Proceesing Systems at Jaipur Office shortly which will dispose of soiled notes at 50,000 pieces per hour. Thus, the soiled notes from nationalized banks are periodically taken by RBI, Jaipur for processing and disposal.

Filing of Income Tax Returns

2524. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly three lakh companies are not filing their income tax returns even after the amnesty schemes;

(b) if so, since when these companies are not filing the income tax returns;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the quantum of tax evasion;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what measures Government propose to take to ensure that all the defaulters are properly booked and income tax due from them are recovered at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) While a large number of companies are filing their returns of income regularly, there are some cases of dafault. In cases of default, appropriate action under the provisions of the Income Tax Act,

1961, is taken. Notice under section 142(1) or 148 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as the case may by, may be issued whenever the companies having income do not file income tax returns. However, those companies not having any income were not required to file tax returns before 1.4.2001. Section 59 of the Finance Act, 2001 has amended section 139(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, making it compulsory for all companies to furnish their income tax returns for every year on or before the due date even if they have incurred a loss. Further, section 90 of the Finance Act, 2001 has amended section 27 IF of the Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to provide that if a person, which includes a company, fails to furnish a return of income under section 139(1) before the end of the relevant assessment year, he shall be liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 5,000/-, as against Rs. 1,000/- provided earlier.

Observance of seven day week in banks

2525. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to introduce seven day week in nationalised banks are under consideration recently;

(b) if so, whether this proposal has been dropped keeping in view the reduced strength of staff in the wake of voluntary retirement scheme in these banks; and

(c) whether seven day week proposal will be considered after some time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per the Indian Bank's Association, the Bipartite Settlement dated 27.3.2000 provides that it is the Bank's Managements' prerogative to introduce extended business hours, shift system in branches and 7-Day Banking Modules, depending upon the business potential, the needs and aspirations of the Customers, without affecting the total working hours of employees subject to statutory provisions of the Shops and Establishments Act, wherever applicable. As per information furnished by the banks to the Indian Banks' Association, 16 Public Sector Banks have introduced 7-Day Banking, Extended Business Hours and Shift Banking in their branches.

(b) and (c) Feedback received by the Indian Banks' Association from 19 Public Sector Banks relating to steps undertaken for manning of branches, customer service and organizational restructuring in the post-voluntary